



Macomb County Executive

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony today. My name is Mark Hackel, County Executive for Macomb County and I am here today with Assistant County Executive, Melissa Roy. Together, we are here to express our support for the Regional Transit Authority package.

Our office supports implementing a better transit system in the Detroit area. Our comments today however, are asking members of this committee and the legislature to move the decision-making into our region. There have been numerous attempts to implement a transit system in Southeast Michigan through the legislative process. The discussion invariably becomes very clouded about what the actual needs and costs will be for residents and the impact to the system. Further, this package affords our counties, cities, villages and townships a forum to manage a regional infrastructure issue.

Background on Macomb County Transit:

- Macomb is the only county in the Detroit region that fully participates in the SMART system
- Gratiot is the busiest line in the SMART system and second in the overall transit system in the Detroit region.
- Average ridership along Gratiot avenue in Detroit and Macomb County is approximately 13,000 riders per day
- 18 of the 54 SMART routes serve Macomb County
- Half of the Macomb County routes are designed for travel between Detroit and Macomb and half are designed to serve Macomb to Oakland travel.

Top SMART Routes in Macomb County:

- Gratiot – 5500 riders / day
- Van Dyke – 3096 riders / day
- 9 Mile (top cross town route) – 1778 riders / day
- 12 Mile – 1504 riders / day
- Kercheval / Harper – 1113 riders / day

Macomb is the fastest growing county in Michigan according to the 2012 census. 14 people a day into the county. 2nd fastest = Kent county

Macomb has been a dependable supporter of the region. We are the only “all-in” county in the SMART system, we support the Zoo, Cobo and most recently, the DIA.

I urge you to pass this bill and help us make transit happen in Michigan. Allow us to provide the leadership our constituents have been asking for. Allow us to create a transit system that works region-wide. Let's figure out how to make the best system. Let's be leaders. Thank you for your time today. I am happy to take questions at this time.